

[3 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

to indicate Project-wise status of the Schemes.

Hunting of Whale Shark

*194. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Whale Shark, the largest fish, is being hunted with impunity as Government are yet to issue the necessary notifications; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The matter of exploitation of Whale Shark for purpose of export was brought to the notice of Government of India following which Whale Shark has been included in Scheduled I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 *vide* notification No. 1-2/2001. WL-I dated 28.5.2001.

A meeting was recently organized at Sasan in Gujarat with the representatives of fishermen community, State Fisheries Department of Gujarat and State Wildlife Wing of Gujarat for enforcing the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 effectively and ensuring effective protection of Whale Shark. The cooperation of Coast Guard has also been sought in this regard. Since the Whale Shark meat and fins are collected mainly for export purposes, action has been initiated for bringing this species in the negative list of export.

Unutilized funds of Railway PSUs

*195. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various PSUs under the Ministry of Railways have generated huge funds through various measures;

(b) if so, what are the details of funds generated during the last two years;

(c) whether these funds are lying unutilized; and

(d) what are Government plans to utilize these funds during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Some of the PSUs under the Ministry of Railways have generated funds from their business operations.

(b) The total amount transferred to General Reserve (i.e. Net profit after accounting for all other appropriation) by these PSUs is as follows:

1998-99	1999-2000
92.74 cr.	103.07 cr.

The audited figure for the year 2000-01 would be available after September, 2001.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Funds of PSUs are not utilized by the Government. PSUs utilize their internally generated funds for their own business purposes.

Procurement of palm oil from Andhra Pradesh

***196. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Agriculture Minister has approved procurement of additional quantity of 70000 metric tonnes of palm oil in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what is the total palm oil procurement allowed in the State;

(c) whether this procurement of palm oil in Andhra Pradesh has been undertaken under Market Intervention Scheme during 2001 season; and

(d) if so, whether the losses in the above operation would be shared equally (50 : 50) by Government?